

PRESIDENT INGALLS.

Waterson Lauds Head of the Big Four Railway.

Extracts from an Editorial Article in a Recent Number of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Social Service Magazine has an essay upon the ruling conditions and current outlook in the United States from the president of the Big Four railway system, which, says Mr. Waterson, in the Louisville Courier-Journal, is so suggestive, and drawn upon lines so Jeffersonian, as to invite the serious attention of intelligent readers and to justify more than passing comment. Mr. Ingalls is a democrat. Born, like so many successful Americans, a farmer's boy, he has merged the man of affairs enough with the man of books to evolve in one and the same personality both the thinker and the actor upon the stage of real life. Whatever he says is weighty because it springs from a mind richly endowed and highly trained, and fortified by varied experience.

In this latest contribution to the reservoir of contemporary thought, Mr. Ingalls recognizes the revolutionized elements no less than the momentous problems with which we have to deal. Upon the very threshold of the new century, as he clearly points out, political events and business conditions are crowding each other so fast that we stop and wonder what is to happen next. New developments, new methods, new conditions, new obligations, are upon us. To many the clouds in the horizon have an angry look and they fear for the future of the nation. While optimists, like Mr. Ingalls, may not share their fears, they agree that the national safety depends upon the virtue and integrity of our citizens, and it is just as well to look the situation over and make up our minds as to what should be done to meet the danger, if there be any. In fact, there is nothing better for an individual or a community than to stop and think. We rush along in our mad race, heedless of the future. To many people the close of the nineteenth century and the opening of the twentieth is not full of promise for the higher ideals of life; it seems to them that everything is being sacrificed to the desire of getting rich; that religion, conscience, truth and virtue are at a discount, and the world only thinks of who will win in the race of piling up millions. It is certainly a time for serious thought. Heretofore we have been a nation in isolation, a law unto ourselves, but, fast ships, cables, the intercourse of people, the demands of commerce, circumstances over which we had no control, have forced us from this position and we stand forth to-day full grown and compelled to take our share of the responsibilities of the world.

The crisis, as Mr. Ingalls shows, is upon us. Our fleets and armies are in the orient; we are in possession of new lands and countries; we stand, as it were, sponsor for all the republics and nations of North and South America. When President Cleveland took his stand in the Venezuela case and the country supported him we were committed to certain duties and responsibilities in reference to all our neighbors, and we cannot get away from them. The Spanish war and subsequent negotiations placed on us the burden of controlling and developing other countries.

In connection with these imminent and overwhelming international issues, as Mr. Ingalls proceeds to show, we are confronted with a further serious question, which is continually raised and which must be considered—the struggle between capital and labor. The organization of the most immense trusts or corporations ever known has brought this to the front. Certainly there are grave issues to be settled by us as a people and as a nation. Are we prepared to assume all these responsibilities and can we successfully manage them and still maintain our republic, still preserve "a government of the people, for the people and by the people?"

We quote the following:

"Is there danger in the future from the great business combinations that are now being made—from the trusts? You hear it on every street corner. At every gathering men are inquiring and discussing it. Has the struggle between capital and labor actually commenced, and is the conflict irrepressible? My observation in the last 25 years has been that labor has steadily won, and capital lost in the struggle which always exists more or less. The compensation of labor has constantly risen, the cost of the necessities of life has decreased. On the other hand, the earnings of capital have grown less and less each year, and the responsibility and trouble of keeping it employed has increased. The rate of interest in this country is only about one-half what it was 25 years ago. A citizen who retired from business then and decided to live on his income is to-day in comparatively poor circumstances. In other words, if he has stood still he has seen the interest upon his capital cut in two, while his expenses have at the best stood still.

"Capital has been able to exist and increase only when it has been actively employed, and if it has been active, it has had to employ labor in order to exist. Our law of equal distribution of estates and the prevention of entails scatters wealth. About the only large estate in this country to-day that I recall, which will not be separated and divided among heirs is Carnegie's, and it looks as though he might divide that up himself. It is rarely that large estates last long in a republic. Children left with large wealth soon dissipate it. The saying that it is only three generations from the millionaire to the clerk in shirt sleeves is generally true, and it is well for society and for the nation that it is true.

"Has the danger to labor increased by the organization of the vast combinations of today? The trust is no new danger. It is an aggregation of capital under a new name. It may be a greater one, but it is only a large corporation—the outgrowth of business and competition. How to control the question of property and taxation, all agree, is one

way of controlling and keeping the trusts within the limits. Let the full light of day be turned on all their actions, all their statements and all their accounts, and provide either by a franchise or license tax that they shall pay their fair share of the burdens of the people. Our case is somewhat different from that of England or other countries, and therefore precedents do not always apply. In England, for instance, they have practically free trade, and there is nothing which the trust wants from parliament. Here we have a tariff, and to a certain extent it is used as a protection for the corporations, and the great danger to our institutions is that these great aggregations of wealth may endeavor to control legislation and do things that smaller bodies would not attempt.

These are pregnant words. They touch the marrow of the question treated. Here is another passage which is full of wise suggestion. Again we quote:

"After all, this danger must be met, as all dangers in the republic must be, and must be overcome by the virtue of the people. We must, so far as possible, protect our small land holders. In their hands is the future of the republic. If you will read the history of the empire and republics that have perished, you will find that their failure dates from the time when the lands drifted into large holdings and were cultivated by tenants or slaves. So far, therefore, as it can be done by legislation our small property holders should be encouraged, and they should be protected. Their burden should be made as light as possible, and capital should be made to pay its fair share of the burdens of the state. Large ownership of land should be discouraged and prevented.

"Our system of taxation is the cruelest on the civilized earth, with possibly the exception of Turkey and some of the oriental countries. The laws of every state are different, and by means of this, large aggregations of capital avoid paying their share of the cost of government. We are just learning that a franchise tax is the easiest collected of any, and probably one of the fairest ways of raising revenue. Of course, those who manage corporations will object, as everybody does, to paying taxes, but, nevertheless, it is right and proper. Those that have the protection of the state should bear their share of the burdens."

LEARNING A LANGUAGE.

It Does Not Require Much Time, If One Has Patience and Perseverance.

"It doesn't require any great length of time to learn a language if one has patience," said a man who has mastered several languages, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "and when I hear a man regret that he is unable to speak French or German, or Spanish or some other language unknown to him, I cannot conceal my amusement. In nine cases out of ten I might say that the man who expresses regret of this sort handle English very poorly if that happens to be their language. The chances are that their vocabularies are extremely limited, and it would probably surprise them to know that, despite the advantages of birth and education, they could not command more than 600 or 700 words in English if their lives depended upon it. Yet they are able to carry on intelligent conversation and many of them may become forcible and even axiomatic in their sayings, and they plunge into discussions of literature, art, music and other subjects of such fine elegance, and do it rather successfully, too. Now, how long ought it to take a man to learn 600 or 700 or even 1,000 words in any language?"

"Certainly it ought not to take any great length of time, and from my own experience I know that it does not. Of course I am not speaking now of mastering so that one can get the full benefit of all the refinements of speech in a particular tongue. But I have in mind the idea of speaking intelligibly in a given language and being able to understand perfectly what is said in return. I have a system which I have worked out, and it has been of vast benefit to me, and has enabled me to learn a number of languages. It occurred to me while I was in Mexico a few years ago on important business. I could not speak a word of Spanish and could not understand the language. I concluded that I would learn the language. My plan was simply this: I made up my mind that I would not retire at the close of any day as long as I was there without learning at least three words in Spanish, how to pronounce them and what they meant. That would give me 90 words per month, or something over 1,000 in a year's time. I stuck to the task, and I was there nine months, and as a result of my system I was not only able to converse in Spanish, but I carried on my correspondence in Spanish. I don't suppose I could write an essay in the language, but I can speak it, write it and understand it and it was all brought about by the three words a day system."

The Volcano Bird.

One curious result of the Soufriere's eruptions has been the loss on the island of St. Vincent of the beautiful bird known as Goulding's Amazon parrot. This bird was formerly found only on the slopes of the Soufriere and was called the "volcano bird" by the inhabitants of the island. It was driven away by the eruptions of 1718 and sought shelter in other parts of the Antilles. The great hurricane of 1898 still further reduced its numbers, hardly leaving a single bird in St. Vincent, and now it is feared that whatever survivors there may have been were destroyed by the recent eruptions or have fled from the scene. Not a bird can be found anywhere within the range of the volcano's activity. Unlike man, birds and beasts did not risk returning to such a dangerous zone.—Detroit Free Press.

Tribe of Dutch Anglers.

Dutch fishermen make astonishing catches by means of a very simple expedient. They put a number of live worms and insects into a bottle partly filled with water, which is then securely corked. The bottle is dropped into the water, and the fisherman sinks his line alongside. It appears that the wriggling contents of the bottle tempt the fish that they fall easy victims to the baited hooks.—N. Y. Sun.

GRAIN DRILL COMBINATION.

The Headquarters of the Concern Will Be in Springfield, O.

Springfield, O., Dec. 18.—The headquarters of the grain drill combination, which has a capital stock of \$20,000,000, will be in this city, where the factories of the Superior Drill Co. and the P. P. Mast & Co. are located. The other concerns in the combination are the Hoosier Drill Co., Richmond, Ind.; Empire Drill Co., Sortsville, N. Y.; Brennan & Co., Louisville, Ky.; The Dowagiac Manufacturing Co., Dowagiac, Mich., and the Bickford & Huffman Co., Macedon, N. Y. There are a few other smaller concerns which will be taken in later. The final details of the merger will be concluded within the next two weeks. New York capitalists are financing the new company, but it is said that J. P. Morgan & Co. are interested. The Superior Drill Co. has already this season shipped many thousands of drills to Australia, the Russians and all the grain producing countries in the world.

SMUGGLED DIAMONDS.

Gems to the Value of \$24,000 Seized at El Paso, Tex.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Special Agent J. F. Evans, stationed at El Paso, Tex., has reported to the secretary of the treasury the seizure at El Paso of diamonds said to be worth \$24,000, and which it is asserted were smuggled from England via New York. The jewels have been placed in the custody of the collector of customs at El Paso pending a hearing of the case. One of the pieces of jewelry is a diamond necklace containing 192 gems, mostly small, another is a brooch containing about 600 small diamonds. It is said that a wealthy woman of El Paso and a young man, a professional palmist from India, are connected with the case, or at least know the history of the gems.

POISONED TACKS.

Employee of a Basket Factory Came Near Losing Her Life.

Metropolis, Ill., Dec. 18.—A mouthful of tacks, in which some one had put strychnine, came near killing Miss Birdie Woodard, an employee in J. N. Roberts' basket factory. Miss Woodard had been in the habit of keeping her mouth full of tacks with which she fastened the ends of the basket bands. These tacks were in a dish on a bench and it is thought that some one put strychnine in the dish Tuesday after the employees had gone home.

Wednesday, after using a few mouthfuls of tacks, Miss Woodard became violently ill. A doctor arrived in time to save her life. No cause for the deed is ascribed and no clew to the poisoner has been found.

TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE.

A City With 30,000 Population Totally Destroyed.

Ashkabad, Russian Turkestan, Tuesday, Dec. 16.—The town of Andijan, Ferghana government, was totally destroyed by an earthquake to-day. The number of fatalities is not yet ascertained. The population is threatened with starvation. Socks were felt in New Marghela and surrounding villages and a railway at Andijan was destroyed for a considerable distance. Food and clothing are being sent to Andijan. Andijan is a town of Russian Central Asia, 72 miles from Khokhand. It had a population of about 30,000 souls.

EMERGENCY CURRENCY.

Senator Dewey Introduces a Bill Authorizing Its Issue.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Dewey Wednesday introduced a bill authorizing the issuance of emergency currency by the treasury department. It provides that such currency shall be supplied to any national bank with a capital of not less than \$50,000 to the extent of 50 per cent. of the bank's capital. The extra capital is, however, to be supplied only in case of a stringency in the money market sufficiently serious to jeopardize values and imperil the commercial and business interests of the country.

Violent Eruptions.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The state department has received from United States Consul Helms, at Apia, Samoa, report that on November 2 last two supposedly extinct craters in the volcano of Manga, Apia, on the island of Savaii, broke into violent eruptions. Heavy earthquake shocks preceded the outbreak. No lives were lost.

Athletic Contests.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The secretary of war has approved a recommendation made by Gen. Randall, commanding the department of the Columbia, that officers and men be granted permission under proper restrictions to visit other posts for the purpose of taking part in athletic contests.

Col. R. E. Bobo Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Col. R. E. Bobo, of Ohio, Miss., whose name was conspicuous in connection with President Roosevelt's recent bear hunting trip died Wednesday at the Hahnemann hospital. Blood poisoning resulting from liver trouble caused death.

Schooners and Crews Missing.

St. Johns, N. F., Dec. 18.—The Allan line steamer Siberian arrived here Wednesday from Liverpool. She encountered furious gales. Three schooners with crews aggregating 22 men are missing.

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Arrival of Trains at Paris:

From Cincinnati—10:58 am; 5:33 pm; 9:45 pm.
From Lexington—5:11 am; 7:43 am; 8:23 pm; 6:10 pm.
From Richmond—5:06 am; 7:40 am; 8:18 pm.
From Maysville—7:45 am; 8:15 pm.

Departure of Trains from Paris:

To Cincinnati—5:15 am; 7:51 am; 8:30 pm.
To Lexington—7:50 am; 11:05 am; 9:40 pm.
To Richmond—11:10 am; 5:33 pm; 9:53 pm.
To Maysville—7:50 am; 6:20 pm.

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